

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A control panel for a portable electric generator, comprising:

a first zone including at least an ON/OFF switch for the generator;

a second zone disposed adjacent said first zone, said second zone including:

a first electrical outlet disposed adjacent a first longitudinal end of said second zone;

and a second electrical outlet disposed adjacent a second longitudinal end of said second zone opposite to said first longitudinal end;

said first electrical outlet providing a first voltage output and said second electrical outlet providing a second voltage output which differs from said first voltage output; and

a voltage selector switch disposed longitudinally in-between said first and second electrical outlets for allowing a user to select either said first outlet or said second outlet for use.

2. The control panel of claim 1, further comprising a third zone disposed adjacent said second zone and including a throttle control.

3. The control panel of claim 1, wherein each of said first and second zones comprise rectangular zones orientated horizontally and parallel to one another.

4. The control panel of claim 1, wherein said ON/OFF switch is disposed at a first longitudinal end of said first zone; and

wherein said first zone further comprises a circuit breaker disposed at a second longitudinal end of said first zone opposite to said first longitudinal end.

5. The control panel of claim 4, wherein said ON/OFF switch and said circuit breaker are separated by an indicia panel disposed at a longitudinally central position of said first zone.

6. The control panel of claim 1, wherein:

said first electrical outlet is disposed within a first subzone of said second zone, and wherein said first subzone includes a plurality of first electrical outlets disposed in side-by-side relationship with one another;

said second electrical outlet is disposed within a second subzone of said second zone; and

said voltage selector switch is disposed within a third subzone of said second zone generally horizontally inbetween said first subzone and said second subzone.

7. The control panel of claim 1, wherein said first and second zones are demarcated by a plurality of generally parallel extending frame members of a frame of said generator.

8. The control panel of claim 1, wherein said first zone is inclined relative to said second zone to thereby place said ON/OFF switch at an angle which is easier for a user to access.

9. A control panel for a portable electric generator having a frame, comprising:

a horizontally extending, rectangular first zone including at least one switch for controlling the generator;

a horizontally extending, rectangular second zone disposed vertically adjacent said first zone, said second zone including:

a first electrical outlet disposed adjacent a first longitudinal end of said second zone;

and a second electrical outlet disposed adjacent a second longitudinal end of said second zone opposite to said first longitudinal end;

said first electrical outlet providing a first voltage output and said second electrical outlet providing a second voltage output which differs from said first voltage output; and

wherein said first and second zones are further demarcated by at least one longitudinally extending frame member of said frame of said generator.

10. The control panel of claim 9, wherein said switch comprises an ON/OFF switch.

11. The control panel of claim 9, further comprising a voltage selector switch disposed within said second zone longitudinally inbetween said first and second electrical outlets for allowing a user to select either said first electrical outlet or said second electrical outlet for use.

12. The control panel of claim 9, wherein said voltage selector switch comprises a horizontally disposed rocker style switch.

13. The control panel of claim 10, wherein said ON/OFF switch is disposed adjacent a first longitudinal end of said first zone; and

further comprising a circuit breaker switch disposed adjacent a second longitudinal end of said first zone opposite to said first longitudinal end.

14. The control panel of claim 13, further comprising an indicia panel disposed inbetween said ON/OFF switch and said circuit breaker switch within said first zone.

15. The control panel of claim 9, further comprising a rectangular third zone disposed adjacent and parallel to said second zone, said third zone including a control for controlling an engine of said generator.

16. The control panel of claim 13, wherein said ON/OFF switch and said circuit breaker switch both comprise vertically oriented rocker style switches.

17. The control panel of claim 15, wherein said first, second and third zones are demarcated by a plurality of parallel disposed frame members of said frame of said generator.

18. The control panel of claim 9, wherein said second zone further comprises a plurality of thermal breakers each associated with a respective one of said electrical outlets and each disposed closely adjacent its respective said electrical outlet.

19. A control panel for a portable electric generator, comprising:

- a horizontally extending, rectangular first zone including at least an ON/OFF switch for the generator and a circuit breaker disposed at opposite longitudinal ends of said first zone;

- a horizontally extending, rectangular second zone disposed vertically adjacent said first zone, said second zone including:

- a first electrical outlet disposed adjacent a first longitudinal end of said second zone; and

- a second electrical outlet disposed adjacent a second longitudinal end of said second zone opposite to said first longitudinal end;

- said first electrical outlet providing a first voltage output and said second electrical outlet providing a second voltage output which differs from said first voltage output; and

- a switch disposed inbetween said first and second electrical outlets within said second zone for selecting for use one or the other of said first and second electrical outlets.

20. The control panel of claim 19, wherein said first and second zones are demarcated by a plurality of generally parallel extending frame members of a frame of said generator.

21. The control panel of claim 19, wherein said switch comprises a horizontally orientated rocker style switch.

22. The control panel of claim 19, further comprising a third zone disposed horizontally and adjacent to said second zone; said third zone including a control for controlling an engine of said generator.

23. The control panel of claim 19, further comprising a plurality of thermal breakers disposed adjacent respective ones of said electrical outlets and each being operably associated with respective ones of said respective electrical outlets.

24. The control panel of claim 19, wherein said first outlet is disposed within a first subzone of said second zone and said second electrical outlet is disposed within a second subzone of said second zone; and

wherein said first subzone includes a plurality of electrical outlets disposed in a generally horizontally extending arrangement.

25. The control panel of claim 19, wherein said ON/OFF switch comprises a vertically orientated rocker style switch.

26. The control panel of claim 19, wherein said circuit breaker switch comprises a vertically orientated rocker style switch.

27. The control panel of claim 19, wherein said ON/OFF switch and said circuit breaker switch are separated by an indicia panel.

28. A control panel for a portable electric generator, comprising:

a horizontally extending, rectangular first zone including at least a first switch and a second switch disposed at opposite longitudinal ends of said first zone;

a horizontally extending, rectangular second zone disposed vertically adjacent said first zone, said second zone including:

a first electrical outlet disposed adjacent a first longitudinal end of said second zone;

and a second electrical outlet disposed adjacent a second longitudinal end of said second zone opposite to said first longitudinal end;

said first electrical outlet providing a first voltage output and said second electrical outlet providing a second voltage output which differs from said first voltage output;

a third switch disposed inbetween said first and second electrical outlets within said second zone for selecting for use one or the other of said first and second electrical outlets; and

at least one frame member of a frame of said generator for demarcating at least one of said first and second zones.

29. The control panel of claim 28, further comprising a plurality of frame members for demarcating said first and second zones.

30. The control panel of claim 28, wherein said third switch comprises a horizontally orientated rocker style switch.

31. The control panel of claim 28, wherein said first switch comprises an ON/OFF switch

32. The control panel of claim 28, wherein said second switch comprises a circuit breaker switch.

33. The control panel of claim 28, further comprising a third zone disposed adjacent said second zone and including a fourth switch for controlling said generator.

34. The control panel of claim 28, further comprising a plurality of thermal breakers each associated with a respective one of said electrical outlets.

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